



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of Maryland*

*Rod J. Rosenstein
United States Attorney*

*Vickie E. LeDuc
Public Information Officer*

*36 South Charles Street
Fourth Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201*

*410-209-4800
TTY/TDD: 410-962-4462
410-209-4885
FAX 410-962-3091
Vickie.LeDuc@usdoj.gov*

**AUGUST 17, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
www.usdoj.gov/usao/md**

**FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION CONTACT
VICKIE E. LEDUC, AUSA
(410) 209-4885**

**ACCOUNTING EMPLOYEE SENTENCED FOR
FRAUDULENTLY TAKING MONEY FROM EMPLOYERS**

GREENBELT, Maryland - United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Rod J. Rosenstein announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. sentenced Sherrie Howell, age 37, of Bowie, Maryland to 27 months in prison followed by 3 years of supervised release for wire fraud. Judge Williams also ordered Howell to pay \$568,165.18 in restitution.

According to the statement of facts presented to the court, from September 2002 through September 2004, Howell worked in the accounting department of Management Technology, Inc. ("MTI"), in Clinton, Maryland. From April 2003 through July 2004, Howell used her position to cause MTI funds to be wired from a corporate account at Wachovia Bank to two personal accounts at the White House Federal Credit Union. Howell used her business e-mail account at MTI to send wire transfer requests to Wachovia personnel in Virginia. Howell's wire transfer requests suggested that the requests were made for MTI business purposes. On several occasions, Howell requested transfers to her personal account and transfers to a legitimate MTI account in the same e-mail message. Howell obtained approximately \$537,500 in MTI funds through this scheme.

From November 2004 through January 2005, Howell worked in the accounting department of Primestock, in Lanham, Maryland. From December 2004 through January 2005, Howell used her position to cause Primestock funds to be wired from a corporate account at Branch Banking and Trust Company ("BB&T") to her personal account at the White House Federal Credit Union. Howell also caused BB&T to make electronic payments to Howell's personal vendors, including Washington Gas, Baltimore Gas and Electric, and Comcast Cable, using Primestock funds. Finally, Howell charged approximately \$17,000 in personal expenses to several different Primestock corporate credit cards. Howell obtained approximately \$47,200 in Primestock funds through these various means.

In announcing today's sentencing, United States Attorney Rosenstein commended the work of the United States Secret Service, as well as Assistant United States Attorney Craig M. Wolff who prosecuted the case.

###